

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jon E. Shackelford on January 11, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 20, after "annular plate" added --including a chamfered inner surface, said annular cover plate--.

Claims 11 and 12 are canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claims 1, the closest prior art, Maughan (US 6,042,293) and Graham et al. (2,635,906), disclose the claimed joint assembly with the exception of the cover plate including a chamfered inner surface. While chamfered surfaces are generally known per se, there is no reason or motivation, absent Applicant's own disclosure to modify the cover plate (15) of Graham et al. to have a chamfered inner surface, especially since the cover plate of Graham et al. is secured inside the housing and includes an inside diameter substantially greater than the outer diameter of the shank that it surrounds.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahid Amiri
Examiner
Art Unit 3679
January 11, 2011

/Daniel P. Stodola/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3679